of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the umbrella of SAARC). Special Narcotics cells have been created in all the Customs and Central Excise Collectorates all over the country as well as in the State police organisations. 615 persons had been arrested upto June, 1988 for drug trafficking offences.

Further, the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance has been promulgated by the President on 4-7-1988. Under this Ordinance, 144 detention orders have so far been issued and 111 persons had been detained in various places, thus immobilising them from indulging in illicit traffic in drugs.

Revision of Export Rules for Trade Samples

792. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently revised the export rules for trade samples;

(b) if so, what are the major changes effected; and

(c) what advantage Government expect as a result of this change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The necessity for obtaining Sample Export Cards from Exports Promotion Council's/Commodity Boards etc. has been dispensed with and export of Trade Samples will be allowed by Customs Authorities as per the provisions of the Import Export Policy.

Value limits for Export of samples of various kinds have been prescribed as follows:—

(i) Samples of wooden furniture not exceeding Rs. 10,000 per consignment.

(ii) Text books and other books not exceeding Rs. 3,000 per consignment.

(iii) Drug formulation with main consignment upto 10 per cent of FOB; when sent independently not exceeding Rs. 25,000 per consignment.

(iv) Agro-chemicals not exceeding Rs. 50,000 per consignment.

(v) Canalized items by canalizing agency only without any value limitation.

(vi) Decontrolled items without any value limitation.

(vii) Controlled items not exceeding Rs. 10,000 per consignment.

(viii) Textile items under bilateral Trade agreement/Memorandum of Understanding without any value limitation.

(c) Certain difficulties faced by the Trade and Industry have now been removed with the liberalised export policy of Trade Samples.

Nationalisation of Textile Mills

793. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any request from certain States to nationalise any particular textile mills; and

(b) if so, whether any change on Government's policy of 'No Nationalisation of Textile Mills' is contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 1985 Textile Policy Statement states that takeover by the Government or nationalisation of sick

textile units does not provide a solution to the problems of sickness and the Government would not, as a rule, intervene in such cases.

Preparation of Maps pertaining to Wasteland

794. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wastelands maps have been prepared through National Remote Sensing Agency; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how these will be put to use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) With a view to identify the nature, extent and location of wastelands in the country, the National Wastelands Development Board has undertaken a maping project in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency. Under the project, maps on 1 : 50000 scale are being prepared for 146 districts in 19 States. These maps will enable the preparation and implementation of area-specific wastelands development plans.

Customs Duty Relief on Import of Machinery

795 SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering customs duty relief for machinery imported for desalination projects;

(b) whether the Gujarat Government has represented to the Central Government for such relief in case of cement and chemical industry in Saurashtra;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the request in view of acute shortage of fresh water in the region; and

(d) what will be the estimated cost and extent of imported machinery for each unit and what will be the net savings in terms of expenditure incurred to procure fresh water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Certain units located in Gujarat as also the Gujarat Government have requested for duty relief on equipments imported for desalination projects to be set up in Gujarat. The request is presently under consideration of the Government.

(d) It is estimated that a desalination Plant of capacity 5 lakhs GPD manufactured partly out of imported components would cost about Rs. 250 lakhs in case exemption from customs and excise duty is granted. The cost of the water produced by such plants is estimated at Rs. 16.76 per M3. It is not possible to work out on a realistic basis the net savings in terms of the expenditure incurred to procure fresh water.

Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme of IDBI

796. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme of Industrial Development Bank of India is due to expire on August 1, 1988; if so, whether the scheme will be reviewed and continued;

(b) what is the amount of concessional assistance and special loans provided so far under the Scheme, State-wise and what was the rate of interest and whether the recovery of the amount has been saisfactory;